(c) to (e) No, Sir. The minutes of the said meeting do not reflect any such concern shown by the Chinese side over blacklisting of some of its companies.

Safeguards in patent laws

10. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the drug companies have requested Govemment to ensure that crucial safeguards are introduced while amending the existing patent laws; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) and (b) Views of all stakeholders as communicated to Government are duly considered at every level. There is no proposal to further amend the Patents Act, 1970. The existing patent law contains provisions for ensuring availability of patented products at reasonable and affordable prices. These *inter-alia* include provisions for compulsory licence, use of patent for public non-commercial use, dealing with emergent situations, parallel import, acquisition of patent rights by Government, use of patent for research and education and revocation of patent in public interest.

Stagnating Indo-Russian trade

11. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for stagnation of Indo-Russian trade at US $ 2 billions for more than a decade;

(b) whether any trade working groups consisting of both the countries have been constituted to increase bilateral trade;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether it is also a fact that recently a woman business delegation of India visited Russia to increase trade between the two countries;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether there are any plans to open a chain of stores of Indian goods which was in operation during Soviet Union under the name 'Ganga'; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIJAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) The India-Russian bilateral trade has increased by 39.3% from US$ 1.95 billion in 2004-05 to USS 2.72 billion in 2005-06. However, with a view to further increase the two countries' bilateral trade turnover to US$ 10 billion by 2010, a Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation between the Minister of Commerce and Industry and the Minister of Economic Development and Trade of the Russian Federation has been signed on 6th February, 2006 to set up a Joint Study Group (JSG) between India and Russia to prepare a programme on significant increase of mutual trade turnover between India and Russia with an overall objective of diversifying and strengthening the bilateral relations in a wide range of areas, particularly with regard to trade in goods and services, investment and economic cooperation as well as feasibility to conclude the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreemen between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Russian Federation.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. A 22 member FICCI Ladies Organization (FLO) business delegation visited Russia from 11 th to 18th August, 2006 led by its President Ms. Mukta Mandani Jain. During the visit, they held meetings and discussions with various business organizations and associations.

(f) and (g) The Government of India has no such plans to open retail chain in Russia. Opening a chain of private stores of Indian goods in Russia is a matter of Russian retail trade, which may be driven by private industry and initiative.

Adverse effect on FTAs on Virginia tobacco growers

12. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state: